

An illustration of two hands, one larger than the other, cupping a heart shape. The hands and heart are rendered in a light purple color against a dark purple background. The heart is formed by the palms of the hands meeting at the top and bottom, with the fingers pointing outwards.

**XOXO**

A PROJECT ABOUT

**LOVE &**

**FORGIVENESS**



# YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER AN EXHIBIT ABOUT FEELINGS

This will be fun and sometimes, scary.

You will play, act silly, and consider what makes you sad, mad and happy, think about love and think about forgiveness.

You'll also ask questions, listen, and learn more about the people with you. You might reveal a secret or discover a forgotten memory. You will definitely share, connect, converse, think and feel.

So take a deep breath, and explore these powerful feelings and the effects they have on yourself and others.

**Go on. Take a risk. Be brave.**

**“EVERYONE LONGS  
TO BE LOVED. AND  
THE GREATEST THING  
WE CAN DO IS LET  
PEOPLE KNOW THAT  
THEY ARE LOVED AND  
CAPABLE OF LOVING.”**

-Fred Rogers





## RESPONSE WALLS

Writing is an important way to express your emotions. Answer questions about love and forgiveness, and then tie them to a wall for others to read. The result is a constantly changing collection of tags that form an emotional narrative of thoughts and feelings.



## HOLDING HANDS

Some things are impossible to do alone. Hold hands and touch the sensors to complete the circuit and reveal the message. Holding hands is a universal demonstration of friendship, trust and compassion.





## EMPATHY BLOCKS

Create unique faces and build a variety of expressions by combining a variety of diverse eyes, noses and mouths in multiple configurations. The facial features are printed directly onto hand-made wooden blocks, adding to the personal experience of looking carefully at another person's face.



## STORY PUZZLE

Words and symbols are used to tell stories, make connections and stimulate conversation. The two puzzle shapes fit together to form paths, shapes and patterns, while also expressing key themes of love and forgiveness. A large tabletop allows several groups to work at the same time, letting them create their own unique puzzles, or perhaps join with another to form one big shared story.



## BALANCE

Sit on the teeter totter and work together to balance a ball encased in a long, clear tube. Balance is achieved when the ball is centralized. This unique interpretation of a classic playground experience requires teamwork, communication and cooperation as both participants much work in tandem to succeed.



## EMBRACE

When embraced or hugged, each egg shaped sculpture responds with its own positive sound – ahhh, mmmm, chirping, cooing or laughing.





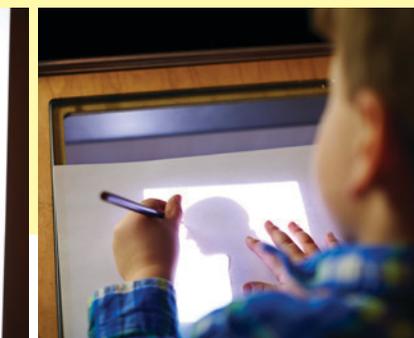
## RELEASE THE NEGATIVE

Write or draw something that makes them angry, sad or afraid on a piece of paper. Then, place it into a slot and turn the crank to manually shred the paper. Shredding the paper helps to release the negative thoughts or feelings and turns the negative into something positive – a colorful display wall of patterns, created using clear jars filled with the shredded paper.



## SILHOUETTES

Trace a friend's profile, also known as a silhouette, onto a sheet of paper. Or sit still as you have your silhouette drawn. Tracing requires concentration and careful attention to the person sitting for the portrait. Once drawn, silhouettes can be displayed and compared – allowing participants to note the similarities and differences in each other. A unique set up of light boxes make the process accessible to all ages and abilities.





## TONE PHONES

What you say is important, but how you say it is just as important. Speak into the telephone handset and watch as your voice changes the shapes on projected on the screen. How is a loud, angry tone different from a soft, kind tone? Tone of voice conveys emotions that impact how our words are heard and understood.



## PHONE BOOTHS

The sound of someone's voice conveys feelings and emotions that a text message can't. Talk to someone you know or meet a new friends using custom designed telephones housed in round tent-like booths, which provide a comfortable setting to have a private conversation.





## REFLECTION TABLE

Manipulate colorful granulated material across an internally lit sculpted landscape – covering and uncovering the surface of the table. As certain areas are uncovered, soothing music is played. Once covered, the music fades away and other areas and sounds are discovered in the table.



### REFLECTION TABLE

Dip your hands into the table, close your eyes, take a deep breath.

Touch the material and move it around.

#### WHAT DO YOU HEAR?

HOW DOES THIS EXPERIENCE MAKE YOU FEEL?

"SOMETIMES SAID POOH, THE SMALLEST THINGS TAKE UP THE MOST ROOM IN YOUR HEART."

WINNIE THE POOH, A.A. MILNE



## ART MAKING STATION

The act of making and giving is a way to express love, admiration, and caring. Die cut and personalize a special box or envelope, use your silhouette drawing to create a card or silkscreen print, make a necklace using their token, or write letters to loved ones. Rotating activities will allow for new experiences and programming throughout the course of the exhibit.



# ENVIRONMENT

XOXO is a flexible space that uses color and materials to create an inviting setting to explore the themes of the exhibit. The exhibit is organized around two sets of tensile fabric pavilions, allowing for both separation of activities and good visibility throughout the space. Flexible seating can be arranged to accommodate multiple purposes, such as special programmed performances, tot yoga and story time.

All furnishing are built of solid wood. A portable floor is also provided to complete the exhibit space. The graphics package includes a set of double-sided, wood sign holders, graphic files for entry and accent scenic graphics, and a paint color guide.

The design team will assist with planning, including gallery layout and art direction.



Another organizing element for the exhibit is a set of mirrored easels. Each easel has a carefully selected inspirational quote about either love or forgiveness. This theme of looking at oneself and those we love closely is carried throughout the exhibit. Another set of easels are matched with specific components to complement the narrative of the experience.

# TAKE A PICTURE

Use frames and words to record a memory of your visit, start a conversation or follow up on ideas experienced in the exhibit. Provided words and phrases, include “I love you” and “I’m sorry”, can help people express feelings that may be hard in other situations. This is an optional addition for host venues. Use your own cameras and phones, or plan a formal program around this interactive experience.



# STORY TIME

Slow down and relax with songs, stretches, and stories brought to life by educators and guest performers by participating in Story Time. A special collection of books and music is provided to support and enhance the content of XOXO. The reading area can be used for additional programs provided by host venues.



# LOVE LETTERS

*Where will you send a message of love, gratitude, forgiveness, understanding, humor, curiosity, or joy?*

Using traditional hand letter writing materials including postcards, stamps, and even a manual typewriter, craft a message or image to someone or something you love.

This program was developed by artist Dalia Shevin to explore the magic of snail mail, the wonders of writing by hand, and the delight of discovering how much love our words can hold.

This experience is an optional addition for host venues.



# PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Programming is a great way to energize and deepen exhibit experiences, cultivate new audiences, and build valuable partnerships. For the exhibit, each host museum will be able to modify public programming suggestions to fit their community.

## THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE

THE GIFT tells the story of a heartwarming couple, one dollar and eighty-seven cents, and the very first wedding anniversary of young performers. Based loosely on O. Henry's classic tale The Gift of the Magi, THE GIFT uses physical theatre, masks, participatory theatre, and circus to explore the role of gift giving in expressing and creating love. An original theatrical performance conceived and crafted to bring XOXO: An Exhibit About Love & Forgiveness to life can be adapted or performed at your museum.

## MUSICIANS & PERFORMERS

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh works with educational musicians and performers, whose workshops and songs can be customized to relate to themes related to love and forgiveness. Various styles of songwriting and personal experiences in an educational and heartfelt program are easily customizable for a wide range of audiences.

## AUDIO CARDS

Museum partner, Saturday Light Brigade, helps kids record an interview, greeting, or song onto a CD that can be decorated and affixed to a special card and given to a loved one. This program has been done for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Hosting museums can reach out to their local radio station and see if a similar program could be offered to their visitors.

## YOGA

This program encourages participants to take a break and learn some yoga poses with their toddler, including stretching, breathing and meditating exercises. By introducing our youngest visitors to the practice of Yoga, we are imparting a method for managing stress and achieving personal awareness that they can carry with them into adulthood.

## AND MORE!

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh continues to develop more one-of-a-kind programs that will be available for host museums to adapt and execute with local professionals.

# RENTAL INFORMATION

## COST:

\$30,000 for 3-month rental

## SIZE:

1,500 - 2,000 square feet

## SCHEDULE:

Available Fall 2014 and beyond

## CONTACT:

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Fetzer Institute

This exhibit is made possible by the Fetzer Institute, which works to better awareness of the power of love and forgiveness in the emerging global community.

children's  
museum.  
pittsburgh